(a) the percentage of work completed for cleaning river Yamuna under Yamuna Action Plan till date;

(b) the total amount approved for the scheme and the amount released/spent till date on the scheme;

(c) whether the work on the scheme is going on according to the schedule finalised at the time of launching the scheme viz 1993;

(d) the target date for completion of work on the scheme;

(e) the reasons for delay; if any, and

(f) steps being taken to adhere to the time schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) So far about 57% of work has been completed under the Yamuna Action Plan.

(b) The total amount approved for Yamuna Action Plan is Rs. 479.56 crore against which an amount of Rs. 251.74 crore has been spent on the plan upto 31.3.98

(c) to (f) The work on the Yamuna Action Plan has been delayed due to delay in land acquisition for construction of sewage treatment plant and pumping stations and finalisation of technology for sewage treatment plants. The action plan is targetted for completion by 31.12.99 as against the original schedule of completion by 31.3.99.

Cleaning of air quality

302. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Government Bank nas offered funds to clean up the air in the capital and other urban centres;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the cities in Karnataka which are likely to be brought under the scheme of urban air quality management strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the State of Karnataka, Mysore and Bangalore have been-covered for assessment of ambient air quality under the national Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. Pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and suspended particulate matter are being monitored under this programme.

Hike in Procurement Price of Wheat

303. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hike the procurement price of wheat during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much procurement is likely to be made during this season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUME AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has granted a Central bonus of Rs. 55/- per quintal in addition to the Minimum Support Price of Rs. 455/- per quintal for the wheat being offered for sale to the procuring agencies for the Central Pool during the period from 1.4.98 to 10.6.98.

(b) Going by the present trend, it is expected that procurement of wheat during the current Rabit Marketing Season 1998-99 may be around 120.00 lakh tonnes.

Import of Wheat at High Price

304. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat at a much higher price was imported recently from Australia than the prices given to the Indian farmers for their produce;

(b) whether his Ministry was ever consulted before import of high price wheat; if so, at what stage and what was the response of his Ministry; and

(c) the quantity of wheat produced during the current rabi season, State-wise and the minimum support price fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, on a higher price.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Food & Consumer Affairs was involved in the decision to import wheat from the very beginning.

(c) The Ministry of Agriculture had initiatlly estimated the likely production of wheat during 1997-98 at 64.51 million tonnes. These production estimates have since been revised by the Ministry of Agriculture to 66.38 million tonns as per statewise details given in the statement (*see* below). The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat has been fixed at Rs. 455/- per quintal for the Rabi season 1998-99. In addition, the Government have also granted central bonus of Rs. 55/- per quintal for procurement upto 10.6.1998.

Statement

Estimates of Production of Wheat, 1997-98

State	Production (In Thousan Tonnes) 1997-98 (Adv)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	6
Arunachal Pradesh	
Assam	105
Bihar	3992
Gujarat	1495
Haryana	7300
Himachal Pradesh	600
Jammu & Kashmir	400
Karnataka	199
Madhya Pradesh	7417
Maharashtra	668
Nagaland	
Orissa	7
Punjab	13200
Rajasthan	6457
Sikkim	
Tamil Nadu	
Tripura	
Uttar Pradesh	23500
West Bengal	900
D&N Haveli	
Delhi	
Others	· 138
ALL INDIA	66384

States Demand for Edible Oil

305. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual estimated demand of edible oil made by every State during the last three years;

(b) the actual allocation made from central pool to those States during those years, year-wise;

(c) whether the State government of Orissa was demanded increase in the allocation of edible oil during the 1998-99;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The demand of edible oil made by the States\U.Ts. and allocation made to them by the Central Government during the year 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 are given in the statement(*see below*)

(c) to (e) During the year 1998-99, the Government of Orissa has demanded 1,000 MTs of RBD Palmolein for April, 1998 and 10,000 MTs of RBD Palmolein for the months from August to November, 1998. Against the demand of 1,000 MTs. made for April, 1998, allocation of 1,000 MTs. of RBD Palmolein has already been made from the balance of the stock imported during the last year. The demand for allocation in respect of the months from August to November, 1998 will be considered after finalisation of the import plan of RBD Palmolein for the current year.